

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes April 23, 2012

### Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Susan Austin	Amy Axel	
Niki Biggs	Reverend Ellison	
Bob Coen	Councilman Guthrie	
Helene Dubay		
Keith England		
Kathy Halliday		
Laurie Kwiedorowicz		
Michael Mathias		
Ben Mayforth		
Tracy Moore		
Marc Weinstein		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Introductions followed.
- II. Presentation: Beth Hendrix, Director of the Harford County Department of Community Services presented outgoing Commissioner Bob Coen a certificate of appreciation signed by County Executive David R. Craig. In addition to praising Bob's work on the Commission and for V-LINC, Mr. Craig stated in the certificate, "I extend my best wishes to you and your wife as you plan the next phase of your life in Carroll County, but I hope you will always consider Harford County home."



**Beth Hendrix & Commissioner Bob Coen**

- III. Minutes: The minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports:
- A. Membership: The following are vacancies on the Commission:
- Two county citizens with disabilities;
  - One representative of an agency serving persons with disabilities;
  - One student representative, as of June 30, 2012.
- B. Accessibility:
1. Fair Housing Services: A Fair Housing Conference was held on April 21, 2012, at the Havre de Grace Activity Center as a partnership between the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Harford County Office of Human Relations and the Harford County Housing Agency. The conference was very well attended and included discussions of Fair Housing Rights and Responsibilities, Reasonable Accommodations, Foreclosure Prevention, and a Legislative Update.
  2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
  3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests.
  4. Ramps Program: Three new ramp projects were approved for homes in Edgewood, Havre de Grace, and Churchville.
  5. Operation Access: No new information.

- C. Education Committee: Helene Dubay reported that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Youth was held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Bel Air High School.**
  2. Approximately 200 individuals attended along with 41 exhibitors. Evaluations by both attendees and exhibitors were very favorable.
  3. 2013 Expo Planning Committee will begin meeting in January 2013. The Expo is tentatively set for March 2014. The committee hopes to hold the Expo again at Bel Air High School.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: Sharon reported that she was contacted by a teacher whose students recommended an accessible travel site for the web links section. Sharon added the Easter Seals Project Action Accessible Travel resources page which includes links to accessible travel sites at <http://www.projectaction.org/ResourcesPublications/FindingAccessibleTransportation.aspx>.
  2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz presented a final summary of disability-related legislation before the Maryland General Assembly, which is attached.
  3. Voice of the Disability Community:
    - Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2012 in Prince Georges County.
    - Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: Independence Now was represented at the Expo taking Youth Leadership Forum applications. Sharon will inquire as to whether any Harford County students applied.
    - Jurisdictional Planning Group: Plans are underway for Emergency Preparedness Month in September. Typically the Emergency Operations Center, the Health Department and the Commission have partnered to provide emergency preparedness information at the branches of the Harford County Public Library and the Senior Activity Centers.
- E. Employment Committee: Niki Biggs reported that at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the discussion included:

1. The Susquehanna Workforce Network will sponsor a Job Fair on May 10, 2012, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Perryville Fire Hall, 920 Principio Furnace Road in Perryville. For more information and to register visit <http://www.swnetwork.org/Cecil%20County%20Job%20Fair%2005.10.12%20Job%20Seeker%20with%20BUS.pdf> .
  2. The Annual Employment Awards Luncheon is set for Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs. Sharon is working with Linda Garrett, the event planner on the menu. The committee is exploring possible keynote speakers for the event.
  3. The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center.
- F. Transportation Committee: The next meeting of the transportation committee will be held on Friday, April 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".
- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon distributed free passes to the World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Maryland State Fair Grounds. There will be a Career Fair on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information visit <http://expo.caringcommunities.org/> .
- V. Old Business: There was none.
- VI. New Business: The Commission voted to reschedule the May 28, 2012 meeting, which falls on Memorial Day, to Monday, May 21, 2012.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements:
- Ben Mayforth requested that anyone who had information about grants for a hand cycle get in touch with him.
  - Pete Raimondi discussed his advocacy through the Maryland Office of Civil Rights regarding chairs with arms in restaurants.
  - Lorie McCullum asked about requirements to provide seating reserved for individuals with disabilities on local transit busses. Sharon will investigate.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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410-638-3373 voice/TTY or [disability@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:disability@harfordcountymd.gov).

2012 Legislative Review  
As of 20 April 12

(Proposals removed when no activity for over 30 days  
or receipt of Unfavorable Report)

HB 8/ SB 175: Electronic Communication; Harassment. Prohibits the use of electronic communications to maliciously engage in harassing conduct. Makes such conduct a misdemeanor punishable by prison not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$500. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

HB 9: Education-Children and Youth- Reporting Information Concerning Student Health, Well-Being and Growth. Proposes a change to the school services and instruction in health education to include diabetes, treating and controlling diabetes, and other age appropriate issues. Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 214: Possession of Marijuana, De Minimis Quantity. Reduces the fees and potential imprisonment for use or possession of less than 14 grams of marijuana. Passed in the House and Senate.

HB 53: Higher Education- Community Colleges- Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals. Proposes to change the requirement for obtaining an exemption from tuition payments at community colleges for students with disabilities enrolled in courses for continuing education designed to lead to employment, including life skills instruction. Requires proof of a disability approved by the SSA, OPM, or the RRB. The exemption would be applied for 6 to 12 credits. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 18/ HB 252: Task Force on Military Service Members, Veterans, and the Courts. Proposes the creation and staffing of a task force to study military service related mental health issues and substance abuse issues, and make recommendations before December 2013. Also proposes the creation of a special court for defendants who are military members or veterans. Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 58: Education- Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships- Payments for Students with Disabilities—Funding. Proposes to change the definitions for funding educational opportunities for students with disabilities in a living relationship with a relative providing for the child due to a serious family hardship, and not in the care, custody or guardianship of the local department of social services. Funding is proposed to cover educational environments deemed to be a “least restrictive environment” and receives special education in regular education

settings (for less than 40% of the day) and in separate public day facilities that does not include programs for students without disabilities (for greater than 50% of the day). Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 121: Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program-Sunset Extension. Proposes to extend the termination date of the program until 2014. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 173: Public School Buildings- Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment. Requires public schools under construction or substantially remodeled to have carbon monoxide detection systems placed in certain area and requires the detectors to be automatically transmitted to certain locations. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 167: Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities- Sunset Repeal. This is the annual proposal repealing the termination provisions and extending the dates of applicability for specific tax credits provided in exchange for hiring qualified individuals with disabilities. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 231: Individuals with Disabilities-Attendant Care Program. Proposes to alter the sliding pay scales used by the Attendant Care Program to pay for specific services and alters the description of eligibility for individuals at risk of nursing home placement. Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 656: Community Colleges- Tuition Waivers-Inclusion of Fees. Adds college fees into the definition of "tuition." Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 804: Human Services- Service Animal Trainers- Nondiscrimination. Proposes a change to the existing state laws to include the same benefits for service animal trainers who are accompanied by a service animal that is being trained or raised for that purpose. Passed in the House and Senate.